This history is written five years after World War II

My name is Arianne. I’m from France. I have experienced World War II. My family was one of wealthiest families in the town.

Tuesday 20.06.1940

Once day when I was sitting in the kitchen, I heard that someone enters by the front door. After steps I could recognize who intruded into my house. These steps were very fast and rhythmic as if given by the smallest hint of the clock. My heart started to beat harder. [Suddenly](http://pl.pons.com/t%C5%82umaczenie/angielski-polski/Suddenly) the [steps](http://pl.pons.com/t%C5%82umaczenie/angielski-polski/steps) [subsided](http://pl.pons.com/t%C5%82umaczenie/angielski-polski/subsided) [and](http://pl.pons.com/t%C5%82umaczenie/angielski-polski/and) [all](http://pl.pons.com/t%C5%82umaczenie/angielski-polski/all) [over](http://pl.pons.com/t%C5%82umaczenie/angielski-polski/over) [the](http://pl.pons.com/t%C5%82umaczenie/angielski-polski/the) [apartment](http://pl.pons.com/t%C5%82umaczenie/angielski-polski/apartment) [yo](http://pl.pons.com/t%C5%82umaczenie/angielski-polski/yo)u [could](http://pl.pons.com/t%C5%82umaczenie/angielski-polski/could) [hear](http://pl.pons.com/t%C5%82umaczenie/angielski-polski/hear) [knocking](http://pl.pons.com/t%C5%82umaczenie/angielski-polski/knocking) into my kitchen door. I turned around and opened the door. There was a soldier standing behind them. Tall, handsome and athletic man bowed in greeting with a smile but I was too surprised to smile back. He introduces himself as Lieutenant Hans Krause and he told me that as from now on, he will be living in one of our room. Our landlady Lise ran into the kitchen; she was so scared. He smiled to her and started to explain. He said that it is an order of German authorities. I throw a glance at him and told our landlady, to show our ‘’guest’’ the only available room. Lieutenant Krause bowed again and he said, he will bring his luggage. When he turned around to pick up his bags, I felt that he looked at me for the moment. After 10 minutes he finished, came back to me and said that he must go to the town and that he will return at about 10 p.m. . The time has passed, maybe one hour or so, while he was in the town. I heard that someone knocked at my outdoor again! I approached to the door and opened it. My heart jumped when I saw who was standing behind them.

My distant cousin Marie with her two children were standing at my door. She was married to a Jew. She looked terrible. I could see tears in her eyes and on her face. Their clothes were slightly ruffled and dirty. I let them in and invited them to the living-room. I looked deep into her eyes, they were full of fear. Marie wiped her face from tears and she took a deep breath. After a moment of silence, she said that German soldiers deported her husband. Marie and her children managed to escape at the last moment. She asked me if they can stay in my house for a while, because they didn’t have anyone else who can help them. I agree but I was not sure whether that was good idea. I had to tell her that there is a German Lieutenant in the house, but … not yet, not at this point. I couldn’t frighten her even more at the moment. Maybe after dinner we could talk by the tea. One thing was for sure, she need to know. They must be very careful!

I proposed them ‘poulet au citron’ it means chicken with lemons. Children liked it very much. After the dinner I suggest David and Angelique to go to the play room upstairs – in this room there are all of toys. When Marie and I were alone, I told her all about Lieutenant Hans Krause. She turned pale on her face and I could see that her pupils dilated. I told her that I will take care of them, but they must trust me. In our cellar there was a shelter. They can stay there as long as they need. In this place they could hide from the Lieutenant. She accepted my proposal. We went for the kids and showed them the shelter. I brought them some food, blankets and toys. I knew that Marie will take care of the children to be quiet. Marie was very intelligent woman and I was sure, that she’ll handle it. I said that I will come to them as soon as the Lieutenant leave the house.

At 21:45 Mister Krause came back. He asked me, who is taking care about the garden. I answered that is my obligation. He smiled and told me that he went to the garden, and he really loved it. Lieutenant added that he felt that it is my responsibility to keep the garden as beautiful as it is. I turned very red in my face, and I said thank you. He started to laugh. Hans Krause suggested that tomorrow evening I’ll show him around the garden and tell him something about it. I didn’t know what to tell him, but I thought about Marie and the fact that I must be polite. Otherwise we might have serious problems with him. That’s why I agreed. Again I could see smile on his face. With this smile he was even more handsome.

Wednesday 21.06.1940

I was woken up in the early morning by singing birds. The light of the sun was gently coming through the window of my room. I dressed up in a very modest blue dress. I pinned up my hair in a bun, and went down for breakfast. Our landlady said that Hans Krause left about 20 minutes ago. I wanted to be alone in the kitchen, so I told Lise to go to the square and do the shopping. I quickly pulled out some fresh backed rolls, jam and milk. Next I have hidden these things in the basket and ran down to the basement. Marie was looking a little better than yesterday. She and the children were very happy when I gave them the basket with food. Angelique walked to me and gave me a hug, and in this moment I felt very loved . But I have noticed that there is something wrong with David. He was very pale on his face and I could see beads of sweat on his face. Despite all this the boy was smiling at all time. When I asked him about it, he told me ‘’ that it is fine aunty Arianne’’. After about 15 minutes, I said goodbye to them. I went to the room where the Lise and I sewed and remade clothes together. I sat down at the sewing machine and finishing dress, which I wanted to give to my mother as a birthday present.

Rest of the day I spent about thinking what else can I do for my family. I felt very basely. At about 6 p.m. Lieutenant came back. Landlady brought him a dinner, in that day it was ribs marinated in soy-ginger. After the meal Hans told me that he must go upstairs at the moment, and in about 15 minutes he came back. I wore my favorite hat and we went to the garden. We’re talking about plants for about two hours, about life and cruelty of war. When I spent time with him I felt as if there were nothing outside of us. When the sun was almost down it started to rain and we ran to the house.

My dress was whole wet. Hans said that next time, we should take an umbrella with us. For a moment we stood in the lobby and we were laughing. I have started to tremble, and he advised me to change clothes and go to sleep. I went to my room, wore my nightdress and then I went to bed.

Monday 30.06.1940

By the following days our acquaintance turns to be closer. We found a ‘’common language’’ and shared interests. I really liked spending time with him. When he was with me, all the differences between us disappear. I often didn’t remember that he is a soldier, and the enemy for my country. One day Hans brought me beautiful red roses, and with smile he said that he has found them on the road.

I'm used to Marie and the children living with us. I often went to the town secretly and there I bought clothes and toys for them. The kids were very sweet and lovely. One evening while David and Angelique were playing tag, he was broken his arm. I ran down to the cellar and I saw David curled in pain. He was crying a lot, and Hans heard that. Hans came to the basement. Marie and I were very scared, but he came to David and examine his arm. He told me to bring a bandage and something to rigid the broken bone. A few moments later, he bandaged David’s arm but the boy was still in pain. Hans gave him pills, and after sometime he felt better so the Lieutenant left the cellar. I ran after him but he didn’t want to talk with me. I was so afraid that he will report me to the German authority and I will be punished for helping my family.

Tuesday 01.07.1940

When Hans came home, he was more calm. I was afraid that he could tell someone about my ‘’secret’’. I explained him everything, and I said that I wouldn’t allow my family to get hurt. He looked at me seriously and after the moment of silence he said that he couldn’t report to me, because he love me and he promised that he will take care about me and my family. I was so surprised, but also very grateful. I came closer, give him a hug and peck on the cheek. We went for Marie and children and we spend all day playing and laughing in the garden. It was the most wonderful day in my life.

Sunday 21.07.1940

We spend together great 20 days. It wasn’t that easy as we thought. We needed to hide from the French and German authorities which was very dangerous and difficult. But we knew that we meant to be together. About 10 days after Hans helped with David’s arm, he got the letter from Germany. It turned up that his father is seriously ill. He needed to go to Germany within next two weeks. I knew what to expect now. He will be away for at least three months. I couldn’t believe that our time together was so short but I also felt very sorry about his father. When the day came, we were very sad and afraid that we will never see each other again.

He planned to go to Germany with the military convoy. The departure was in the middle of the night and I wasn’t allowed to walk him back to the truck.

Several days after I have found out that the resistance put some explosives under the bridge. As they said, they were able to destroy the German military convoy. I was so shocked and terrified that I have lost my consciousness.

**As they say: all's fair in love and war**